

SPASTICS NEWS

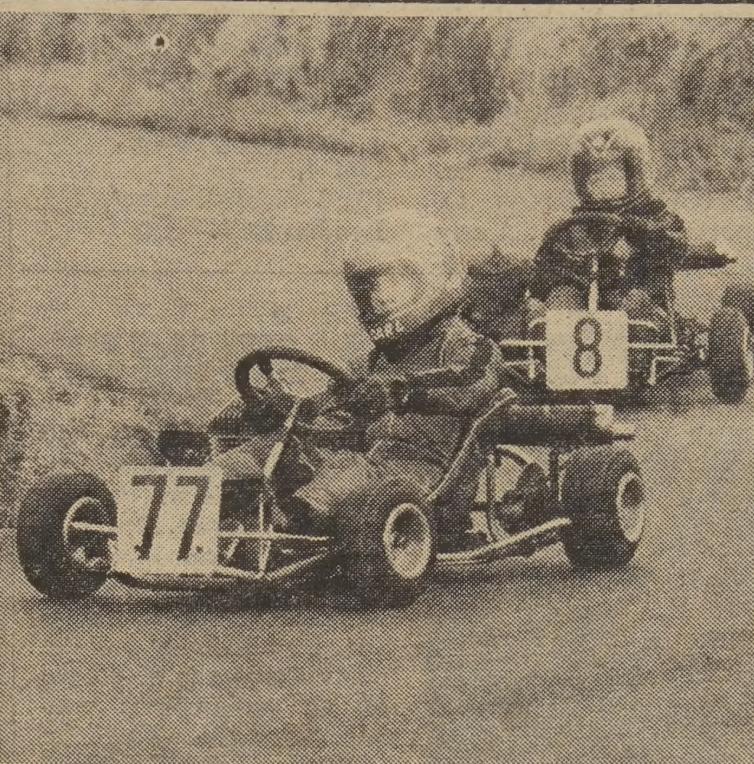
NEW SERIES PRICE 5p



The Spastics Society

SEPTEMBER 1979

Disabled — but going places at 90 mph



CARL behind the scenes doing a pit check, and where the action is — Carl taking a fast corner.

New high in fund raising?

SOME folk will go to great lengths to help others.

That's why a group of 11 Surrey people will take to the air at Wansford, near Peterborough on Friday, September 28, to make their first ever parachute jump. They are aiming not only for 'happy landings' but enough sponsorship cash to help provide a minibus for the South East Surrey Spastics Group.

Says jump organiser Peter Chambers, publican of the Six Bells in Newdigate, Surrey, 'When some of my customers and friends heard that local spastic people were housebound, and unable to get to their day centre or take part in social activities because their old minibus had packed in, we thought it would be a good idea to weigh in and help. I suggested we took part in a sponsored parachute jump, and the lads and lasses thought it was a great idea.'

Training

The charitably minded group of eleven men and women, whose occupations range from housewife and secretary to bank clerk and businessman, will take a special two-day training course before they eventually tackle the real thing from a height of around 3,000 feet. Already they have obtained sponsorship monies to the tune of around £1,100 but are aiming at an eventual target figure of £2,000 plus.

Says Mr Chambers: 'The more cash we carry on our backs when we jump, the sooner we get that new minibus on the road.'

Glamour on a budget at Spastics Shops



IF attractive, glamorous actress Sylvia Syms can be a Secondhand Rose, then so can you. That's the sales talk behind the posters of Sylvia which will shortly be appearing in every Spastics Shop from Totnes to Carlisle. Gala glad rag bargains which Sylvia tried on at a modelling session held at the Weybridge shop included a mink coat, a silk embroidered Chinese jacket and a long tapestry evening coat, all of which had been donated to the shop. Full story about the blooming business in Spastics Shops on Page 7. The picture of Sylvia was taken by the Surrey Comet.

NINETY miles an hour is quite a speed for someone who can't even walk without crutches, but for 14-year-old Carl Hodson from Wolverhampton, who is spastic, that's his average weekend pace.

Carl's hobby is go-karting and he takes the spills along with the thrills even though when he crashes he can't get out of his kart on his own. At a recent race meeting of the British National Union Grand Prix at Chasewater near Birmingham, Carl spun off the track at 80 mph on his last lap. His father pushed him back on the track and Carl then

finished second.

'I love karting,' says Carl. 'The fact that I'm disabled doesn't bother me at all. Other chaps who are disabled should have a go—they would thoroughly enjoy it.'

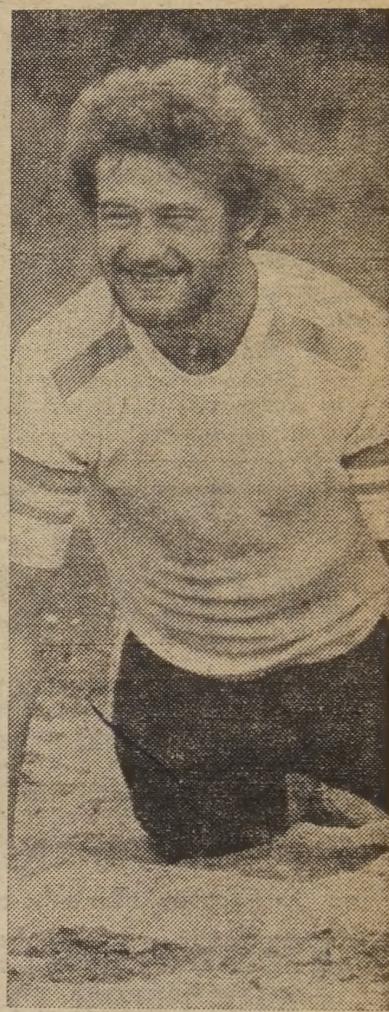
Carl was tested for his RAC competition licence by Kenneth Guest, an RAC steward.

'No way would he have been given a competition licence if we hadn't been 100 per cent sure of his capabilities,' commented Kenneth Guest. 'We all think he really is a superb little driver. That lad is going places.'

Pictures by Reveille

More sporting types

A happy landing for William Wilson in the long jump — one of the many events in the National Spastics Games held at Trent Polytechnic, Notts. The enthusiastic contestants increase in number each year, proving the value of sport for the disabled. Not only does it give the competitors a chance to demonstrate their prowess at athletics, but reinforces the fact that it is not the winning but the taking part that is important. Their achievements are recognised by the organisers of the meetings and the wider public that comes to watch the entrants at the Games. The finalists come from all over the country as a result of their victories at the regional events earlier in the year. A full report and more pictures appear on Page 3.



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Spastic? It's not the word that matters —just the way you use it

HAVING read with great interest the correspondence which followed your report of my conference paper on 'The use of the word Spastic,' may I now offer a few concluding remarks?

First, to correct one mistaken impression about

LETTERS

what I am thought to have said, being spastic is in no way shameful. Handicap can, from time to time, lead one to be placed in embarrassing or undignified positions, but, in itself, there is no shame in being handicapped.

Unhappy pilgrim

I AM a member of the Maidstone Area Spastics Group which went to Canterbury Cathedral for the service for the disabled (reported in the July issue of *Spastics News*). It was boring, with Latin anthems and I was disappointed. There should have been more cheerful music that the disabled people could have taken part in. There was no communication between disabled people, and I think it was badly organised.

Christopher Waters,
Maidstone,
Kent.

• Sorry, Mr Waters, but the general opinion of those attending the service was that it was 'inspiring and moving.'

Second, I totally agree with the correspondents who say, we are as we are, and it does not matter what name is given to our condition. Of course it does not matter what word is used. What **does** matter is HOW it is used. 'Spastic' is an adjective, just as 'blind' is an adjective and 'deaf' is an adjective. No one speaks of 'Blinds' or 'Deafs.'

My paper was long and fairly detailed. It is difficult to summarise but I suggested that if we changed the way we used our words, we could change our habits of thinking about people. I also suggested that it is important to see people as individuals, however severe their handicaps might be.

I believe this is an important issue, but clearly

one cannot continue to take up the columns of *Spastics News*. May I, therefore, invite anyone who is interested in reading the full conference paper, to write to me at my home address. I will gladly send them a copy.

Valerie Lang (Miss),
Flat 4,
13/14 Wynyatt Street,
London EC1.

'What a lovely lady!'



EILEEN DOUGAL

morning to six at night with no concessions made to her handicap. It sounds the perfect recipe to develop an enormous chip on her shoulder.

Yet Mrs Dougal's positive enjoyment of life shone through in your article. You get so many youngsters today complaining about their bad luck. I'd like to see them in Mrs Dougal's boots — the ones she wore out every fortnight, and see how they managed!

In fact I reckon I know a lot of non-disabled people more handicapped than Mrs Dougal in her wheelchair, simply because they do not have her capacity to get on with living their lives instead of continually grumbling about the quality of them.

Her daughters must be very proud to have a mum like her, and I hope that many other handicapped people will read this article and find the same sense of inspiration that I got from it. She had the great blessings of a devoted husband, a happy marriage and healthy children, but they came at a time when many others would have grown dispirited and bitter about their lot in life.

Mrs Dougal is obviously a very special lady facing the tragic shock of her husband's sudden death with dignity and bravery. I hope she enjoys many, many more happy years of a busy fulfilled life.

Thank you, Mrs Dougal — reading about you has been a real tonic!

C. Watts (Miss),
Glasgow.

Film made world-wide impact



MARGARET and Brian, stars of the Society's film 'Like Other People.' *Spastics News* brought their film love story up to date with a feature about their married life together.

I WAS most interested to read the article about Margaret and Brian (Willie) Oliver in *Spastics News*. It is good to learn that they have made such a satisfactory married life for themselves, and I know that the many thousands of people of all nationalities who have seen the film 'Like Other People,' will be most interested to have up-to-date news of these two main stars of the film.

Nancy Tuft in her article has, however, under-estimated the impact of the film and the extent to which 'Like Other People' is shown in many countries all over the world. In my opinion this film has been a major influence in changing attitudes towards disabled people, not only in this country but all over the world.

At the recent SPOD Conference on Caring and Counselling, I met Mrs Winifred Kempton, who is well-known in America for her work with mentally handicapped people in the sex education and planned parenthood field. Mrs Kempton told me that she had worn out two copies of the film and was now using her third copy! She has shown 'Like Other People' extensively in Philadelphia and in many other states in North America and elsewhere. All the students at Philadelphia University see the film during their first year, quite apart from the very wide variety of other audiences with whom she is involved.

We have also heard very favourable reactions to the film from most European countries and from as far afield as Australia and India. In this country, too, the film is still very effective and one of the cerebral palsied participants of the SPOD Conference who saw it for the first time in July said she was 'shattered' by its impact. For many people — social workers, medical students, business men and women, parents, teachers, schoolchildren — this is the first time that they have ever thought about the feelings and relationship of people with severe disabilities.

Thank you very much, Margaret and Brian.

Margaret Morgan (Miss),
Controller of Personal
Social Services,
The Spastics Society.

No party for us

IT was lovely to see the pictures in *Spastics News* of people enjoying their day out at the Great Children's Party in Hyde Park.

I felt I must write on behalf of our Society to point out, however, that nobody from the Sheffield area went because they were not invited! We received a letter from Harrogate office telling us that the event was to take place — whereupon I telephoned them to ask who was eligible to go, and they informed me that

SPOD meeting

SPOD, the Committee on Sexual and Personal Relationships of the Disabled, has for the past year been an autonomous organisation following six years of support from the National Fund for Research Into Crippling Diseases. It is about to become a registered charity and its immediate financial security and expansion has been assured by a grant from the DHSS, of approximately £25,000 and, hopefully, in the longer term, by donations.

The inaugural meeting of the newly created 'SPOD' charity, to be known as The Association to aid the Sexual and Personal Relationships of the Disabled, will take place at the International Students House, 229 Great Portland Street, London W1, at 6.45 pm on Thursday, September 20, 1979. Membership and, therefore, the meeting, is open to all who support the objects of the Association, and can be represented by individual or corporate membership.

B. A. Thrift,
SPOD,
Brook House,
2-16 Torrington Place,
London WC1.

anybody could — no mention of any invitations or nominations therefore being required.

I must admit that our Executive Committee did have grave doubts about the wisdom of handicapped children being expected to be part of such a 'milling crowd' — however, it would have been nice to have been asked, and we look forward to being asked in the future.

Mrs V. A. Beaumont,
Hon. Secretary,
Sheffield and Rotherham
Spastics Society.

MRS Beaumont says in her letter that the Society's Regional Office at Harrogate informed the group about the party. So did the Administrative Bulletin sent out to all local groups from the Society's HQ in London. And what about *Spastics News*? The April issue not only gave full details about the party, free rail travel, overnight accommodation, etc, but invited parents and group officers to apply for tickets, and how to do so. It pays to read the News... Editor.

Christmas is coming!

THIS year's Christmas catalogue is now ready and available from *Spastics Cards Ltd.*

The fully illustrated catalogue contains the usual wide selection of cards and calendars at varying prices as well as Christmas decorations, wrapping paper and gift tags. Among the presents are books and jigsaw puzzles, games and stationery items.

Write for a copy of the catalogue to Order Department, *Spastics Cards Ltd.*, The Ridgeway, Iver, Bucks SL0 9HW.

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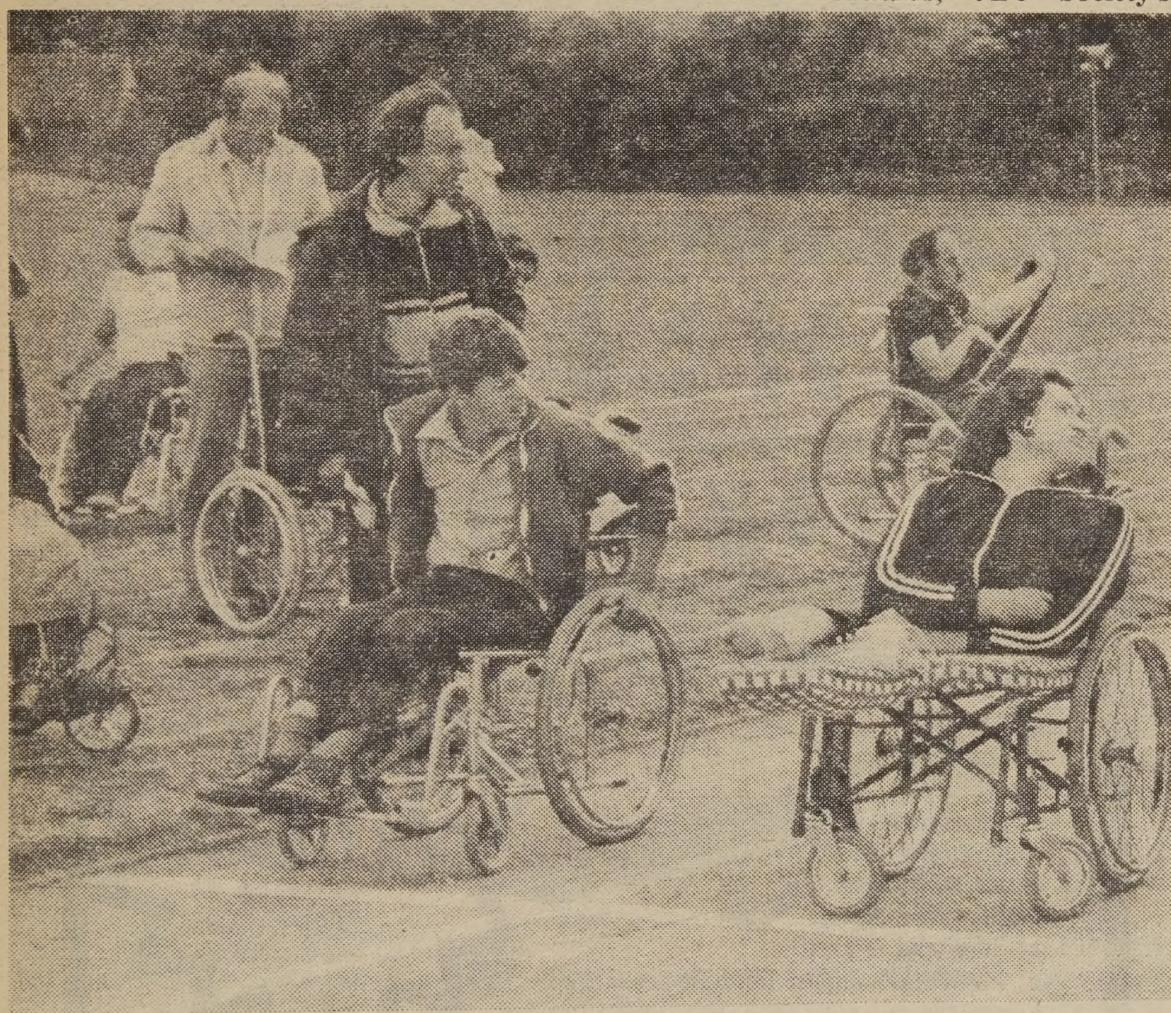
Calling Gay

I WOULD like to make contact with Gay Butcher who was at Dene Park Spastics Centre with me from November 1971 to August 1972. Please write to Andrew Orchard, 28 Warren Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.



• EFFORT, endeavour and the struggle to succeed are no strangers to Alyn Haskey, who in the past has won the Society's Achievement Award. However, success on this occasion was just out of reach.

• WATCHING, waiting and wondering about the next event, these entrants are lined up ready for the wheelchair dash.



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Success for the National Spastics Games

THE National Spastics Games, held this year at Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham, enjoyed a huge success, both with the number of contestants taking part and the standard they attained. The 267 competitors ranged in age from 10 to over 60, literally travelling from all over Britain — with one entrant coming from Aberdeen and another from Falmouth.

A total of 57 centres, schools and hospitals sent competitors to the games, along with 20 private competitors who had achieved the very high standards that had been set at the area games at Meldreth, Lancaster, Newcastle, Bristol, Tonbridge, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Said Mr Arthur Edwards, the Society's

physical education adviser: 'The standard and keenness of the competitors demands that we make some adjustment to our standards of qualification for the national event, and that we amend, slightly, one or two of our rules of competition. It is becoming increasingly apparent that, in many quarters, serious training is now being undertaken in preparation for both the national and area games.'

The four special cups were presented to the quartet of winners: Boreham Cup to Valerie Nixon of High Wycombe; Berkshire Cup to Robert Iles of Bristol; Good Neighbours' Trust Cup to Alan Kerwin of Cardiff; and the Boots Cup to Geoffrey Lord of Solihull.



• PORTRAIT of a prize winner as Alan Kerwin, one of the private entrants from Cardiff, throws the cricket ball — which put him on target to win the Good Neighbours' Trust Cup.



• ABOVE: The wheelchair dash is one of the most keenly contested of events.

• BELOW: Steven Collins, a student at the Roger Ascham School, concentrates on the intricacies of the slalom, while alongside him is slalom judge Mrs Pat Pettit.



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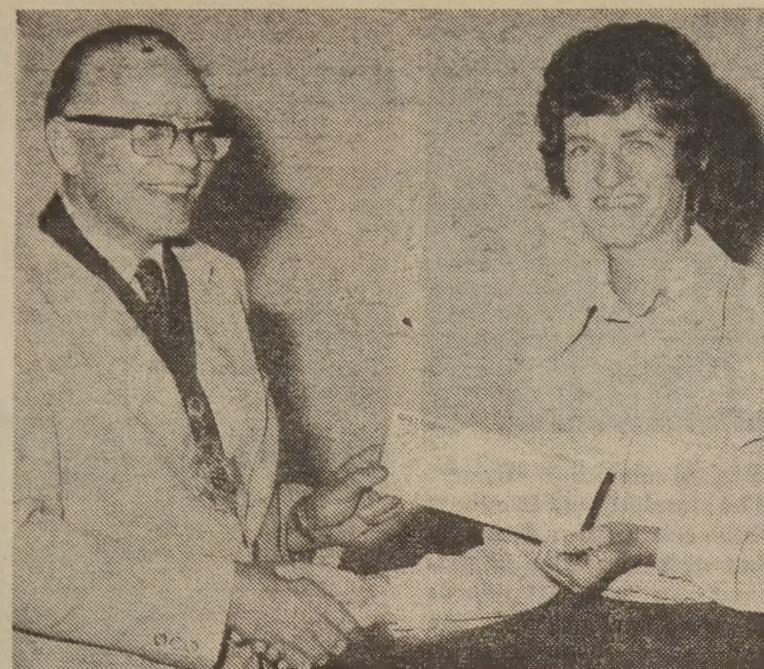
COMPANION / Housekeeper wanted for lively, enterprising spastic lady, own room, modern Hampshire house, almost no nursing, other help, car driver preferred, good references. Please write to Box 100, Spastics News, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London WIN 4EQ.

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MICHAEL J. Rossiter, 52 Maesglas Avenue, Newport, Gwent, would like a female penfriend, preferably in South Wales. His interests are music, dancing and going out. Please contact at the above address.

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News about the Spastics Pool

MRS Iona Hughes, of Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd, receiving a first dividend cheque for £8,333 from the



MISS Jean Spurrier, of Henley Park, Yatton, Bristol, receiving a cheque for £500 from Spastics Pool regional manager, Mr Geoff Dornan, at the Yat-

ton Social Club. Jean, who won a second prize in a free 'Starball' competition for members of the Spastics Pool, intends spending the money on a holiday.



THERE were certainly buttons galore at The Spastics Society Shop in Walthamstow when the Pearly King and Queen, George and Mary Munns, arrived to present a £5,000 dividend cheque to Mrs P. Truss. Said Mrs Truss, of Warner Road, Walthamstow, 'I intend spending the money on my children and grandchildren'. Also pictured is regional manager, Harry Sandford.



A FIRST dividend cheque for £8,333 for Mrs A. Childs, from area supervisor, Mr Holman, at her home in Sturry, near Canterbury. Also pictured are Mr Childs, and Spastics Pool collector, Mr W. Goddard, who automatically receives a bonus cheque for £416. Mr and Mrs Childs intend putting the money towards buying a house.

'Spending cuts will hit the disabled'

DISABLED people will not escape the results of the Government's cuts in public spending, and it would be foolish to pretend otherwise, admits Mr Reg Prentice, Minister for the Disabled.

He told the AGM of the Royal National Institute for the Blind:

'I hope that cuts in services for disabled people will be few and far between, but it would be foolish to pretend that they will not be affected. Existing cash benefits from the government such as invalidity pensions, attendance allowances and mobility allowances—will of course be maintained. So will war pensions and industrial injury benefits. Local authorities will, I hope, strive to find other areas for economies before reducing their services to the disabled and the chronically sick.'

'But it is equally clear that we cannot take new initiatives in the near future if they would cost money.'

Mr Prentice said that he

hated being so negative. 'There are very many improvements I should like to introduce for disabled people. Ultimately I hope that all the severely disabled will get a disablement income.'

I make no apology for the government's spending cuts. Britain has got to live within its means. We must stop

argue that some privileged groups have escaped the government's scythe, so that the argument of complete consistency and even-handedness is flawed; and they may also question whether all the flab in the public services will have been lopped off before the scythe comes around to them. It would not be an outrage, or unforgiveable betrayal of ideology, if Mrs Thatcher and Mr Prentice spared the disabled; but it would be an outrage if the less deserving were spared and the disabled were not.'

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MOTABILITY

Adopting a handicapped child — the facts

How Jackie found a family of her own

by
Nancy Tuft

'PARENTS for Children' is an adoption agency specialising in finding families for handicapped and older children who would otherwise spend their lives in care. The adoptive parents are neither saints nor crazy, says the agency's director, Phillipa Sawbridge. They are ordinary people who see children as children first and their disability second. Very often they are already parents 'with room for one or two more,' like Len and Elizabeth Wood, who approached Parents for Children a couple of years ago.

In April this year, a six-year-old spastic girl, Jackie, now seven, was formally adopted by the Wood family, Len and Elizabeth, who already had two children of their own, Tara aged 10 and Bobby aged eight.

Judge

The actual day for the signing of the official papers formalising the adoption was somewhat of an anti-climax, according to Len Wood. It was an informal occasion, lasting all of five minutes, held in an ordinary room, not a court, and the judge put on his wig only after the proceedings were all over — 'and that was just to show the children that he really was a proper judge,' comments Len Wood. 'He did it to give them a thrill.'

In fact Jackie's integration as a member of the Wood family had been taking place progressively over the previous 12 months, carefully monitored by Parents for Children. But the idea of adopting a handicapped child had long been in the back of Len and Elizabeth Wood's minds.

When they were first married, Len and Elizabeth felt they would like four children, possibly a half and half mixture of



• JACKIE, a little seven-year-old spastic girl, found a family of her own with Len and Elizabeth Wood, Tara and Bobby, who live in Bourne End, Buckinghamshire. 'Adoptive parents are neither saints nor crazy. They are ordinary people, often already parents with room for one or two more,' says Parents for Children, an adoption agency specialising in home-finding for handicapped children.

their own, plus a couple of adopted children. As they became more knowledgeable about adoption, they realised that the children with the greatest need for homes were children with handicaps. When they actually came to making inquiries about available children, they found local authorities 'very offputting.' It was only when they became members of PPIAS, Parent to Parent Information Advisory Service, a consumer-run organisation which aims to guide would-be adopters through official red tape, that Len and Elizabeth first heard about the agency Parents for Children.

Agency

Parents for Children is a small Government grant-aided agency working within a 100 mile radius of London. A small team of social workers specialise in finding adoptive homes for the sort of children

who have always been considered 'hard to place,' eg, mentally and/or physically handicapped children, children of mixed race, and teenagers. The experience of both PPIAS and Parents for Children is that there are both families and single people willing to adopt these 'children with special needs' as they now tend to be called. What is needed is the time and trouble to locate them and match them up with available children.

"Parents for Children were keen whereas the others seemed to put up barriers. In fact Parents for Children grabbed us," says Elizabeth. "Straight away there was a positive and definite response."

The Woods were invited to a discussion meeting at the London office of Parents for Children where they first met social worker Juliet Horne, who told them about Jackie, who was then living with a fostermother found for

her by the local authority. At that time Jackie walked with the aid of sticks and she wore surgical boots. She also had a slight hearing problem which had affected her speech development. So one of the prime considerations in placing not only Jackie, but any handicapped child, is availability of services such as physiotherapy and speech therapy. Luckily the Wood family did live within easy reach of a good local special school which had these facilities laid on.

In stages

Meeting up with Jackie and getting to know each other took place in easy stages. Len and Elizabeth first saw and spoke to Jackie on a visit to her school, when as far as Jackie was concerned, they were just another lot of visitors. They came to see her in her foster home, and Jackie together with her foster mother came to

spend the day with the Wood family.

As soon as Len and Elizabeth had made up their minds, then their own children Tara and Bobby had been told about the plans for adopting Jackie. Already they had been shown photographs and a previous short spell of fostering, which Len and Elizabeth had done a couple of years ago, also helped to prepare Tara and Bobby for the idea of sharing their parents.

So Jackie moved in with the Wood family at the end of the 1978 Easter school term. "Tara and Bobby really welcomed her right from the start," says Elizabeth.

Since she has been with the Wood family, Jackie has had two spells in hospital; one short stay for the correction of a slight squint; and a longer stay for operations on her legs last December when Elizabeth "lived in" with her,

Cont. on Page 8

Terry climbs to peak success

'CLIMB Every Mountain' could well be the signature tune of 35-year-old Terry Marsh, who works for the leisure department of Wigan Corporation. For Terry has just created a new record in his own leisure time which is worth £4,000 to charity, including The Spastics Society's 'Save a Baby' campaign.

Terry set out to climb the highest mountains in Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland all in one weekend. He started by scaling Ireland's 3,414ft Carrauntoohil which took one hour 52 minutes. A plane flew him from Dublin to Valley RAF station, Anglesey, from where he drove in his own car to the foot of Snowdon. After the ascent of Snowdon, he then drove to the Lake District to climb Scafell Pike, and his final summit challenge was Ben Nevis in Scotland.

Altogether Terry completed the total climb of 12,500 feet in 27 hours 13 minutes.

Alcohol danger to babies

CONSUMPTION of alcohol during pregnancy is already known to be a major risk to the healthy development of the foetus. Up till now it has usually been assumed that a mother should refrain from drinking alcohol only during pregnancy.

However fresh evidence revealed in a recent issue of The Lancet reports the case of a child with multiple congenital malformations suggestive of foetal alcohol syndrome born to alcoholic parents who had stopped drinking as long as one and a half years before the child's conception.

The case history suggests that alcoholism can have serious long-lasting effects on male and/or female germ cells. The evidence comes from a medical centre for genetic counselling in Boston, Massachusetts.

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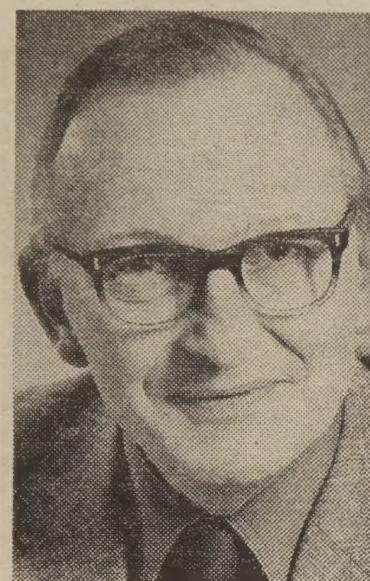
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SOCIETY'S AGM: ELECTION FOR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SEATS

John Coombs, of Lane End, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, has been a member of his local group committee for 14 years, serving as chairman for three years, vice-chairman for three years and chairman of the fund-raising committee for three years. He is chairman of the board of governors of Park Crescent School, High Wycombe, a member of his local Parochial Church Council, churchwarden, and member of the Deans Synod. For six years he was Chairman of the East Regional Co-ordinating Committee, a member of the RCC for 13 years, and member of the Resources Committee. Mr Coombs' own spastic child died at



the age of six. He has been in business for 25 years and is an executive with a national ice cream company.

Keen contest for five vacancies

THE Spastics Society's Annual General Meeting takes place in London on October 13, when the guest speakers will be Lord Parry, President of The Spastics Society's Wales Region, and eminent surgeon Mr George Pollock, Chairman of the Scottish Council for Spastics.

One of the most vital tasks for the AGM delegates is the election of five new members to join the 15-strong Executive Council, the ultimate decision-making body of The Spastics Society. This year there are eight nominees for the five seats which are made vacant each year by retiring members who stand down in rotation.

As some of the people who are entitled to vote for the election of Executive Council members cannot attend the meeting in person, Spastics News has a tradition of publishing photographs and brief biographical details of the candidates, so that eligible voters can, if necessary, take full advantage of the proxy system.

Of the eight candidates up for election this time, four are retiring members standing again for possible re-election, and four are new contenders. One retiring member of the Council is not seeking re-election.



Valerie Lang is a librarian in London, and a member of the North London Spastics Association. Educated at St Margaret's School, Croydon, she obtained a BSc(Econ) and

Post Graduate Diploma in librarianship at London University. Miss Lang was variously committee secretary and hon secretary of the Association of '62 Clubs, between 1971-75, and is still a member. She is on the committee of the Uphill Ski Club, is a member of the International Cerebral Palsy Society and has represented either the '62 Clubs or The Spastics Society at three international conferences. Miss Lang has been a member of the Resources Committee since 1976, is vice-chairman of Services sub-committee, chairman of the Consultative Group, a Samaritan Fund trustee, and involved with the working party on special needs of handicapped adolescents.



* Alexander Moira, of Beaminster, Dorset, is a founder member of The Spastics Society and an honorary life member. He has been a member of the

executive body of the Society since 1952, and a vice-chairman of the Executive since 1960. He was Honorary Treasurer from 1952 to 1960. Mr Moira, who has a spastic daughter, is an ex-officio member of every committee or other body appointed by the Executive Council, and an elected member of the Management Board and the Resources Committee (chairman). He is a trustee of Friends of Spastics League, a trustee of Charity Cards and a trustee of the Sembal Trust. Mr Moira, an architect, is also chairman of the Habinteg Housing Association, and a member of the International Cerebral Palsy Society.



Eric Plummer is a solicitor living in Spalding, Lincolnshire, where he is founder member and cur-

rently chairman of The Spalding and District Spastics Society, and president of Spalding and District Mentally Handicapped Society. He is also founder and first chairman of STRIVE, a local committee to co-ordinate the activities of organisations in the area dealing with the problems of the handicapped. Mr Plummer is a member and was, for five years, vice-chairman of the Friends of the Society's Wilfred Pickles School.

The parent of a spastic child, Mr Plummer has 43 years experience in the legal profession, and is also a member of various Masonic committees.



University. Connected with a number of welfare organisations for the disabled and elderly, she is also a member of the District Council Management and Planning Committee, a member of Habinteg, and on the Salisbury Community Health Council. Mrs Smith is a magistrate.



* Iorwerth Thomas is the Society's Honorary

Treasurer, and has been a member of the Executive Council since 1970. He is a member of the Management Board, chairman of the Finance Committee, and ex-chairman of the North-West Regional Co-ordinating Committee. Mr Thomas is a civil engineer, living in Culcheth, Warrington, Lancs, and is the father of a spastic child. He was chairman of the Urmston and District Spastics Group for 12 years up to 1977, and continues as a member of the local group committee.

* Denotes member of the Executive Council retiring by rotation but seeking re-election.

Shake a tin in the City

FLAG Day in the City of London will be on Friday, October 19, and David Saint, Senior Appeals Officer, London Region, is seeking volunteers over the age of 16 to help make this year's collection bigger and better than ever. Peak hours when collectors

are needed most are between 7 and 9 am to catch the morning commuter crowds, and also in the lunch hour between 12 and 2 pm.

Local groups and centres who send collectors benefit directly, as all the money they can collect goes into their own group or centre's account.

London hosts Naidex '79

NAIDEX '79, the National Aids for the Disabled Exhibition, returns to London for 1979. The Wembley Conference Centre has been chosen for this year's event (Nov 21-23) now recognised as the most comprehensive exhibition of aids and services for the disabled in the world. The Wembley Centre, completed three years ago, incorporating excellent facilities for the disabled, with lifts, ramps, toilets and parking, offers an ideal venue for this important convention.



Ian Dawson-Shepherd who lives in London, is a founder member of The Spastics Society, and its first chairman. A Civil Servant, he was Executive Committee chairman between 1952-60, and has been a member of the Executive Council since 1973. He is a member of the Public Relations and Fund-raising Committee, and a member of the Collwall Court and Wakes Hall Management Committees. Mr Dawson-Shepherd is also on the Board of Governors of Guys' Hospital Medical School, and University of London representative on medical selec-

tion panels. He has a spastic daughter.



* Alexander Moira, of Beaminster, Dorset, is a founder member of The Spastics Society and an honorary life member. He has been a member of the

Secondhand Rose glamour at Spastics Shops

Updated image attracts new breed of customers

Profits bloom on bright ideas

FIVE years ago the Shops Department of The Spastics Society faced the fact that the clientele of charity shops were mainly pensioners and people who had seen better days. They realised that there was a new breed of bargain hunters in the High Street, shrewd of eye with canny instincts and a 'never mind its origins, will it match?' approach to filling the gaps in their wardrobes. And it's more of these new 'free-to-shop-anywhere' customers from all age groups and backgrounds that the 105 Spastics shops all over the country are aiming to attract.

Very soon the window of every Spastics shop from Totnes to Carlisle will be displaying a poster showing attractive blonde actress Sylvia Syms on a secondhand shopping spree. And if someone as glamorous as Sylvia Syms can be a Second-hand Rose, then so can anyone!

Glad rags

At a recent modelling session at the Spastics shop in Weybridge, Sylvia posed for photographers, showing off such gala glad rags as a mink coat valued at £250; an apricot halter neck evening dress which accentuated her gorgeous suntan; a tasteful green silk embroidered Chinese evening jacket and a trendy denim jumpsuit; all upmarket fashion garments which had come into the shop as donations.

Among her going home purchases were a pair of black evening shoes, and a cream coloured classic shirt/blouse which cost 90p. 'Ninety pence. You must be joking. I can't believe it,' said Sylvia, amazed and delighted.

Policy

'Gone are the days when we ran our shops in dimly lit, scruffy surroundings with goods displayed on trestle tables and in cardboard boxes,' says John Tough, Head of Marketing. 'Our policy of upgrading which started five years ago has had an enormous effect on increasing sales, and as we continue with our improvement programme, the net contribution will become greater and greater,' he added.

Running charity shops is an expensive form of fund-raising bearing in mind rents, rates, insurance and salaries. But, says John, the returns can be great, as his figures show.

The amount distributed to regional funds and to local groups last year was over £100,000 net and it is hoped that the distribution

tickets; training seminars for area shop supervisors as well as a sales commission scheme for manageresses, who are salaried employees—all these improvements have shown dividends without ever losing the human touch.

Ability

The ideal manageress must have a natural ability to sell as well as being able to create the right atmosphere. She must be able to make good contacts in order to encourage donations and she must be someone who knows instinctively in September to put the winter coats out on display,' says John.

'For the right person the job is marvellous. You're dealing with the public. You're your own boss and free to use flair and initiative. And there's the additional benefit of knowing you are helping handicapped people.'

Backing up the manageresses of the individual shops is a team of 15 field staff including five area shop supervisors. The headquarters of the Marketing Department is in Croydon and the staff there, headed by John Tough, includes a property manager, a merchandising manager responsible for the new gift items which account for 20 per cent of sales, and a shops advisor, Maurice Liston, who is a retired Marks & Spencers branch manager. Two Waste Reclamation Warehouses at Welwyn and Faversham supply a selection of top quality clothing to supplement shop donations.

The latest scheme from the Marketing Department involves a series of small 'Save a Baby' shops with the net profits going straight into campaign funds. These shops are situated in Camden, Welling, St Paul's Cray, and East Dulwich, and an entirely new kind of shop is planned for London's Wardour Street, which will specialise in knitwear and which aims to attract the young tourist trade.

The character and the clientele of Spastics shops varies according to the locality. The Horley shop near Gatwick is patronised by air crews as well as tourists. The ideal charity shop, however, is located in an area of mixed population which guarantees a balance of donations and sales.

New range

There are two combination shops at Weybridge and Woking where half the floor space is given to 'Home Affairs,' a range of new country kitchen type merchandise, and the reasoning behind this venture is to pull in the more affluent shoppers who are



all potential donors of secondhand goods who have to walk through the secondhand part of the shop to reach the display.

The most popular line in all the Spastics shops is in ladies' tops, which is a direct reflection of the retail trade. Children's clothes are in demand but there isn't much interest in babywear, which people tend to pass on to relatives and friends.

Christmas cards will be on sale shortly, but meantime September is by far the busiest month of the year with peak sales. Those budget bargains in winter coats boost sales even higher and the local groups benefit as a result.

THERE'S nothing scruffy or down at heel about any of the 105 Spastics Shops situated in high streets all over the country. A typical feature is the Society collecting doll outside, which like the flower stands in this picture comes inside at night.

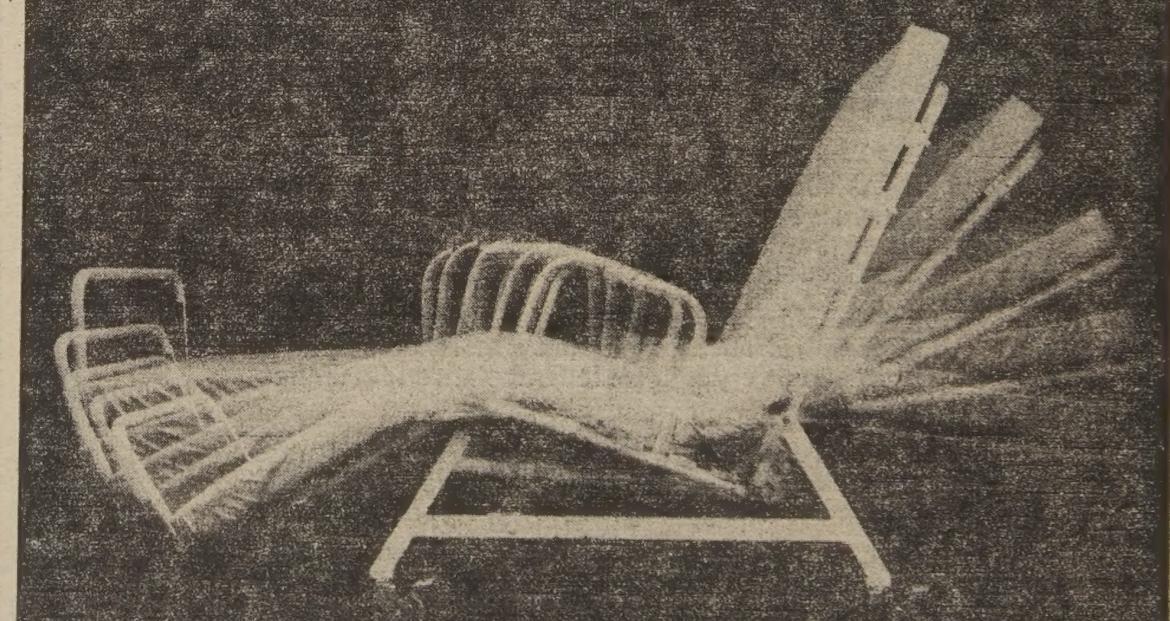
The facade of this shop in Bromley compares favourably with those of its commercial neighbours, and attracts delighted customers confident of finding value for money and a wide range of merchandise.

Picture by Beckenham and Penge Advertiser

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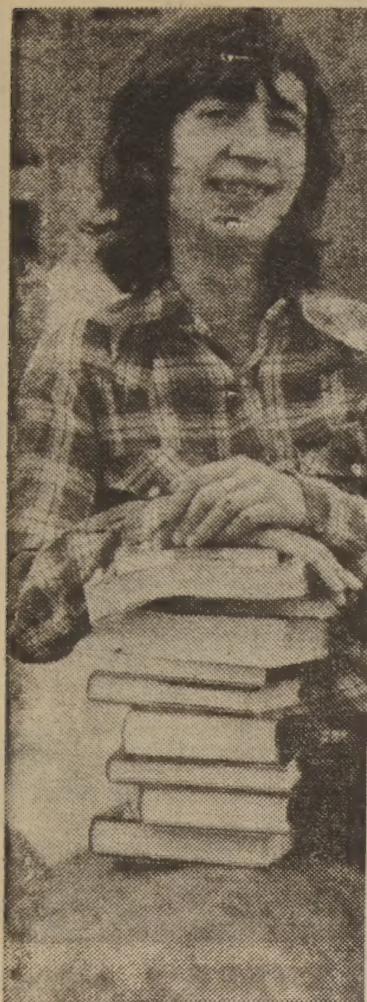
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HULL's own rugby superstar Clive Sullivan pitched in with enthusiasm when he was asked to re-open the Hull Spastic Shop. It has been closed for just seven days while a band of volunteers gutted, and refitted what had been very shabby premises. Clive cut the tape on a sparkling new

shop and the success of the re-paint has been reflected in a rise in takings.

Our picture shows Clive with the manageress of the Hull shop, Mrs Joyce Moseley on his right in the line-up, and assistant manageress Mrs Pauline Horne on the left, along with the volunteers who help run the shop.



FIONA Dickson, age 22, from West Lothian, has just received a BA (Sociology) degree from Stirling University. 'Fiona has shown tremendous guts in overcoming her disability,' commented Eric Dow of the Scottish Council for Spastics.

Fiona is thinking of social work as a future career. 'I think my handicap could be a great help in that kind of work,' she said.

Picture by
Scottish Daily Record

'Aids for disabled would sadden visitors' No place on Rhyl's prom for Society's exhibition

THE bright yellow exhibition trailer full of helpful gadgets and aids for elderly and disabled people, which is put on the road by The Spastics Society, was banned from Rhyl promenade by their Tourism and Amenities Committee.

'Completely out of place,' Mr Ron Smith, Entertainments Director, told The Western Mail, Wales' largest newspaper,

which quoted Mr Smith as saying that the presence of the Visiting Aids Centre on the promenade 'would have a bad effect on holidaymakers and tinge their holidays with sadness.'

'Are we in the business of social services or a holiday resort?' Mr Smith wanted to know.

And Ms Jae Owen, The Spastics Society's VAC Officer who organises sites, was quick to point out to Mr Smith that during the summer season the travelling road show of specially designed aids, which is

financed by the Department of Health and Social Services, deliberately visits holiday resorts as a community service of benefit to both local residents as well as holidaymakers.

'Attendance figures for holiday resorts show the extent of public interest in our display and I can assure Mr Smith we do not force entry,' commented Ms Jae Owen.

A large proportion of Rhyl's holidaymakers are, in fact, elderly or disabled people.

'Rhyl has a big promen-

ade and because it is so flat, is ideal for pushing wheelchairs,' says Ms Jae. 'When I visited Rhyl, I saw more wheelchairs along the promenade than I've ever seen in any holiday resort.'

Residents and visitors on the North Wales coast did get their chance to view the mobile exhibition of aids at other sites. An alternative resort, Colwyn Bay, offered an attractive site in the popular Eirias Park with only two days notice, and the Kwik Save Discount Store in nearby Prestatyn offered their car park.

They'll look sweet upon the seat...

TWO Yorkshiremen are planning to put a spoke into the wheels of a charity cycle ride.

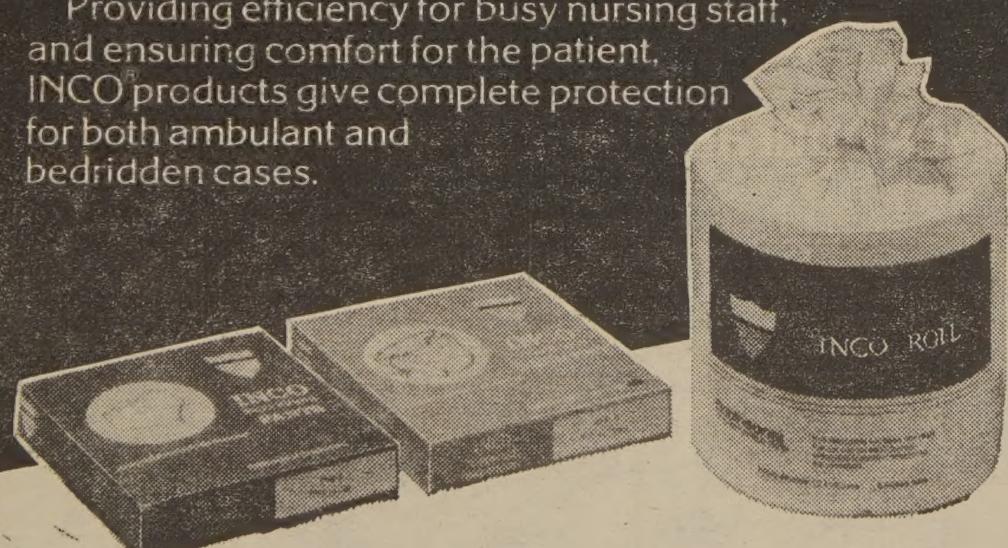
Up till now no men have ever been allowed to take part in the annual women's sponsored cycle ride at Malton.

This year, however, a 73-year-old retired bus driver who has not ridden a bicycle for 50 years, plans to join the 86 women who will be riding the 20 miles in aid of the Ryedale Spastics and Disabled Persons Society. Mr Bill Halstead will wear women's clothes and make-up for the event, and he will be accompanied by his friend Mr Jim Oldfield who plans to decorate his 'sit up and beg' bicycle with flowers.



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SN Sep

September cookery

MINTED LAMB (serves 4)

4 British lamb cutlets

Seasoned flour

4 oz Oatmeal

1 Egg, beaten

1 tbsp Chopped mint

1 oz Butter

Salt and pepper

Season lamb, coat in flour then dip in egg. Mix the mint with oatmeal. Roll lamb in this mixture. Bake, dotted with butter, at 375 F, Mark 5, for about 30 minutes.

BLACKCURRANT CHEESECAKE

12oz cottage cheese, sieved

1 pint fresh single cream

1oz gelatine

4 tablespoons water

Rind of two lemons, grated

4 tablespoons lemon juice

3 British eggs, separated

4oz caster sugar

1 pint fresh double cream, lightly whipped

6oz digestive biscuits, crushed

1oz demerera sugar

2oz home-produced butter

Topping:

1lb blackcurrants, topped and tailed and stewed in a little water.

Sugar to taste

Arrowroot or cornflour to thicken



Jackie's new family

Cont. from Page 5

with Len taking time off from his job as a computer programmer to look after Tara and Bobby.

Time spent on frequent trips to hospitals and clinics for check-ups and assessments is another important factor to be considered when adopting a handicapped child, says social worker Juliet Horne. The importance of regular developmental checkups is in itself a powerful argument in favour of adoption since handicapped children in local authority care can easily miss out if there is no special person to monitor and make sure that follow-up visits are carried through on a long-term basis.

Since Jackie's operation on her legs, she has been able to do away with her surgical boots and her sticks, and now she only wears her fibreglass splints at night.

Her speech, too, is improving as she learns to write. The tantrums which Len and Elizabeth were warned about have proved virtually non-existent—'only one that I can remember when you weren't here,' Elizabeth tells Len.

There are minor frictions from time to time. Jackie can perfectly well

'WE treat Jackie as much as possible like a normal child,' says Elizabeth and Len Wood, her adoptive parents. Since Jackie moved in with the Wood family, she has done away with both surgical boots and sticks. Her speech, too, is improving as she learns to write and spell.

fasten her own shoes, but she will try and get you to do it for her if she can get away with it,' says Len.

Len and Elizabeth Wood welcome the permanence of adoption. 'It's nice to be able to make long term plans like putting her name down for the Brownies,' says Elizabeth. 'Now a foster mother can't make promises like that without the risk of disappointment if those plans aren't carried out.'

'As far as possible we follow the advice given by Parents for Children—to treat Jackie like a normal child.'

Grease and line an eight-inch deep cake tin. Mix single cream and cottage cheese together. Dissolve the gelatine in the water. Put lemon rind, juice, easter sugar and egg yolks in a basin over a pan of hot water and whisk until thick. Remove from heat and whisk until beginning to cool, then whisk in the gelatine. Blend egg yolk mixture with the cottage cheese mixture. Leave until thick but not set. Fold in whisked egg whites and the lightly whipped double cream, making sure all is well blended. Pour into prepared tin and chill until set. Thoroughly blend together the crushed biscuits, butter and demerera sugar, sprinkle over cheesecake, pressing down lightly and chill again until all is firm. Turn cheesecake out onto a serving platter, remove lining paper. Thicken the stewed, sweetened blackcurrants with arrowroot or cornflour, allow to cool and begin to set, then spread on top of chilled cheesecake. Leave in a cold place until ready.

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SN Sep

Letter of the month

Parents V professionals—must there always be deadlock?

FOLLOWING a re-appraisal of my handicapped child's future educational needs, once more I have, like many other parents, come head on into the Parent v Professional perennial deadlock. A recent assessment carried out at The Spastics Society's Family Services Centre, London, and backed up by my Local Education Authority educational psychologist made certain findings as to what my child's future educational needs were likely to be.

The crunch came when I applied for more detailed information, following a proposal made by my LEA. By and large it seems common practice among LEA's not to divulge the contents of confidential reports to parents, as I found out.

Bearing in mind that ultimately it will be my decision as to whether or not my child makes would could be an extremely significant move, the dilemma I am faced with is in having to decide what specifically my child's needs are likely to be, and how they are to be best met, without having a scrap of relevant information.

What really surprised me was that The Spastics Society which I had always thought of as a parent initiated body, adopted exactly the same standpoint as the LEA.

Lots of other parents must be faced with the same kind of agonising situation, and I just wonder how long the day is off before a real move is made to create a genuine partnership thereby replacing what amounts to nothing more than an increasingly jargonistic and self-interested professional elitism.

Alan Lindley (Mr),
Haseldene,
Beltoft,
Doncaster.

A confidential report—but we seek 'genuine partnership'

MISS Margaret Morgan, The Spastics Society's Controller of Personal Services, was asked by Spastics News to comment on Mr Lindley's letter. She said:

'WE are in full agreement with Mr Lindley about the need for "genuine partnership" between parents and professional people. We are only sorry that there seems to have been some misunderstanding about the written information that we are always ready to send to parents after an assessment.

'During the time that a

family spend at our Family Services and Assessment Centre at Elizroy Square the findings and implications of the assessment and the suggested recommendations are discussed very fully with parents, who are encouraged to ask questions and to raise any special problems. We usually find that this discussion provides

sufficient information for the majority of families.

'After the assessment a full confidential report is prepared for the professional people who are closely involved with the child, adolescent or adult and this report would not necessarily be very meaningful to parents. It is, however, possible for parents to have, in written form, the information that has been discussed with them, together with the recommendation of the panel. It is unfortunate that this was not available to Mr Lindley at the time. We have, however, made sure that he has now received a report and we hope that this has helped him to make plans for his son's future, in co-operation with the Local Education Authority.'

Council action after group's campaign

THE campaign of the South East London Spastics Group to try and persuade Greenwich Council to provide residential accommodation for severely handicapped adults in the borough has achieved some degree of success.

The desperate need for residential accommodation in the area which was highlighted in July's Spastics News has at last been recognised by Greenwich Council. The group managed to persuade the council to hold a public meeting at which the Director of Social Services, Mr Andrew Foster, outlined the council's plans to earmark £100,000 towards a residential home as well as setting aside a further £80,000 for expenditure in the forthcoming year.

A site was under consideration, Warren Woods, Shooters Hill, a former

children's home, but because this belonged to the Greater London Council, there were legal problems.

'A step in the right direction' was the reaction of the local group. Secretary Lynne Waller commented: 'We are delighted that the council are prepared to put money into short stay accommodation. We're sorry, of course, that the plans don't include long term accommodation, but at least this should do something to alleviate the stress on some of our parents, some of whom are now nearing their eighties.'

The South London Spastics Group has now established an arrangement whereby there will be quarterly meetings with their representatives and council members in order to discuss progress in the provision of long term residential accommodation.



MRS Downs and her son Terry.

'Worthwhile effort'

● 'OUR campaign in the local press was definitely worthwhile,' commented Mrs Floss Downs, chairman of the SE London Group. 'Before that we didn't even get a reply out of the council. Now at least we are having these confrontations. It should help to keep the council on the ball.'

'We're not knocking their social services which are pretty good. But at the same time we felt that the most important thing missing was local residential accommodation.'

What do you think?

MANY local groups of The Spastics Society are concerned about the lack of appropriate residential facilities for people either with severe handicaps or who are not able to look after themselves in their own home. In addition, there is also a serious shortage of regular short-term facilities for severely handicapped people who are living with their parents.

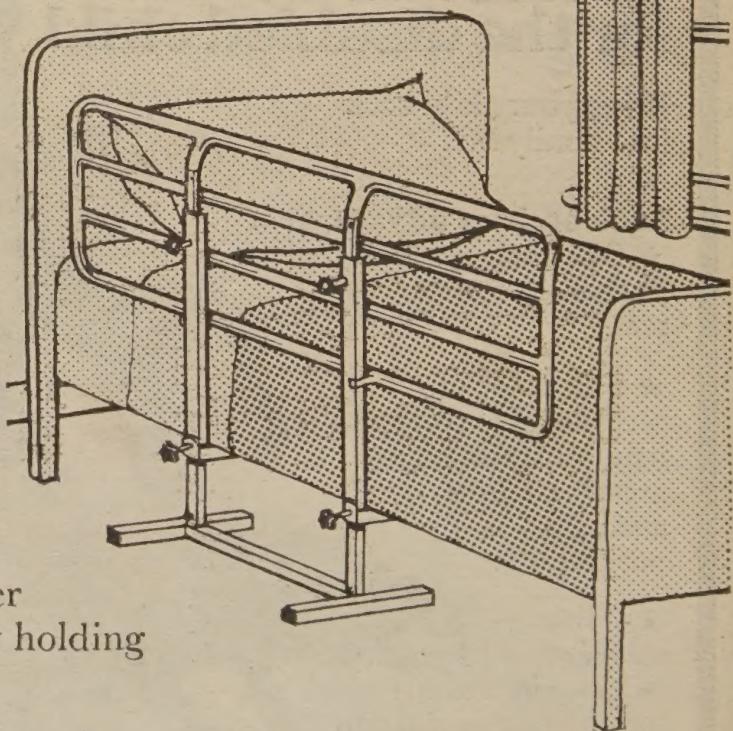
In order to get a picture

of what facilities are available and where there are particular shortages, the Sheffield and Rotherham Spastics Society has suggested that local groups should be invited to send to Spastics News details of the range of residential facilities available in their districts. Disabled readers are specially invited to send us their views about the type of residential facilities that they would like to have.

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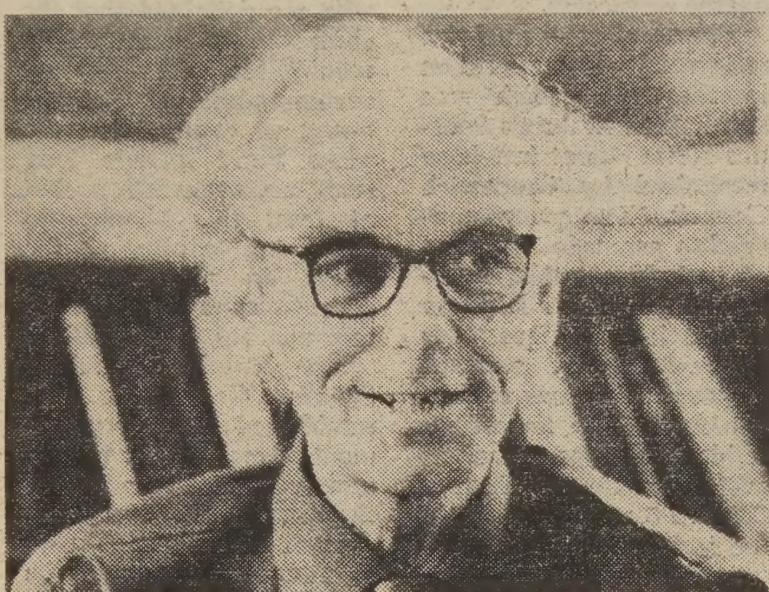
SN Sep

Obituaries

Professor Tizard — a man of wisdom and compassion

PROFESSOR Jack Tizard, Chairman of The Spastics Society's Educational Advisory Committee since 1966, died on August 2 at the age of 60. Professor Tizard was born in New Zealand in 1919 and educated at Canterbury University College in New Zealand and the Universities of Oxford and London. He was Professor of Child Development at the University of London Institute of Education from 1964 until 1971 and was Research Professor and Director of the Thomas Coram Research Unit from 1971.

He worked tirelessly to develop better educational, health and social services for children and his work is recognised as being a unique and outstanding contribution to world knowledge about children's needs. He was awarded the Kennedy International Scientific Award in 1968 and the Research Award of the American Association on Mental Deficiency in 1973. He was a member of numerous committees, one of the most recent of which



Prof Jack Tizard

was the DHSS Committee on Child Health Services, whose Report 'Fit for the Future' (1976) is regarded as the century's most important published document concerning child health services. He wrote a number of outstanding books on social policy, child development and mental retardation.

Those people with a special concern about the institutionalisation of handicapped children will always remember Professor Tizard with affection and respect, for he was well-known for his views about

the deprivations suffered by handicapped children living in inappropriate institutions and he stressed the need to develop more community services and family support systems.

He took a special interest in The Spastics Society and the care of multiply handicapped children, and he gave wise and forward-looking guidance in his role as Chairman of the Educational Advisory Committee. The Society mourns Professor Tizard, not only as a highly-informed leader but also as a friend whose wisdom and compassion inspired all who met him. His death leaves a gap which will

be impossible to fill, but his work and achievements in the field of children's services will not be forgotten and he will continue to influence our attitudes towards children and our commitment to improve the services that we provide for them.

Maureen Oswin

'Mr Pastry' made children happy

ONE of Britain's best known and loved comic characters, 'Mr Pastry' has died at the age of 70. With his white walrus moustache, flapping coat tails, bowler hat and gold-rimmed glasses, Richard Hearne's zany antics brought pleasure to countless children and adults.

But Mr Pastry also had a serious side — touring a school for spastic children in Croydon he realised just how much swimming pools meant in the treatment of handicapped children. From then on he was a tireless and indefatigable worker, devoting his considerable talents to raising money for pools. His contribution was such that in 1970 he was awarded the OBE for his services, and his efforts led to

the opening of more than 70 swimming pools.

Mr Hearne was in the great tradition of the English theatre, his first appearance on the stage being at six weeks of age in his mother's arms, and he claimed to have been cradled in the props basket. His appeal was international and he was well-known in France where he was called 'Papa Gateau' and Germany where he was 'Mr Sugar Tart' and he also became a familiar figure on the American Ed Sullivan TV Show. He retired in 1970 as a protest against the increase of smut in popular entertainment, having been one of the earliest television stars.

Mr Hearne died peacefully at his home in the picturesque village of Bearsted in Kent and leaves a widow and two married daughters.

from Birkbeck College, and finally a PhD from the Institute, in 1975.

Dr Anderson also had a varied teaching career, working in Malawi, both before and after independence, and Uganda. In addition, she taught English for a year at the Society's Thomas Delarue School between 1962-63.

Dr Anderson then focused her attention on research work, initially in East Africa and then England, publishing work for the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases. Between 1969-72 she was research officer at the Department of Child Development, at the Institute of Education, and from 1973 until her death Research Officer at the Thomas Coram Research Unit of the Department of Child Development and Educational Psychology.

In addition to a very heavy workload of research, Dr Anderson was also a tireless member of a number of committees, and also held a number of consultancies both here and abroad. She was a regular and conscientious contributor to lectures, tutorials, conferences and workshops, as well as supervising post-graduate students.

Dr Anderson was the author of a considerable number of publications, some written in conjunction with others, and at the time of her death had almost completed her final work. It is a study of the psychological adjustment of adolescents with cerebral palsy or spina bifida and is the result of a demanding three-year research programme. Her memorial — it will be published some time next year.

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SN Sep

People and places in the news



THREE-year-old Parag Joshi from Haydock, Lancashire, has a new 'toy' train to help him walk.

Parag's physiotherapist recommended the 'toy' train to strengthen his leg muscles, after his mother Mrs Vrinda Joshi had been approached by the St Helens Spastics Society to see if there was a piece of equipment from which Parag could benefit.

The money was raised by a group from St Bartholomew's School, Rainhill.

Picture by South Lancashire Newspapers Ltd

Before...



...and after



Bald facts revealed

SOME people will go to the most extraordinary lengths to raise money for spastic children. The bald facts of this hairbrained scheme resulted in a close shave for two of the regulars of the Starway Inn, Southampton. For 24-year-old Glen Spencer and 22-year-old Morley Blake, it was a case of hair today and gone tomorrow, and as a result local spastic children were £100 better off because astounded friends were prepared to pay to see the young men lose their crowning glories.

Picture by Stockport Express



MRS Anne Wilcock, secretary of the Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society, had six speedy young cyclists to thank for their contribution of £26, which they raised on a 22-mile sponsored cycle trip.

Picture by Southern Evening Echo

Quiet cash

SILENCE was golden at Barnwood First School in Guildford where 98 five to eight year olds raised more than £370 by keeping their lips sealed for half an hour. Parents had signed the forms in disbelief that their rowdy youngsters could keep quiet for so long.

Six-year-old Sian Peach and eight-year-old Teresa Maker count the proceeds which went to the White Lodge Centre for spastic children in Chertsey.

Picture by Surrey Advertiser

TV set for hospital

THIS television line-up of nursing staff from Balderstone Hospital, Newark, Notts, took place together with representatives of The Spastics Society.

The colour TV set presented to Springfield Ward was bought with £850 raised from a house to house collection in the Newark area.

Present were (left to right) charge nurse Stan Swallow; Mrs Phyllis Smith, children's nursing officer; Mr Jeffrey Hodg-

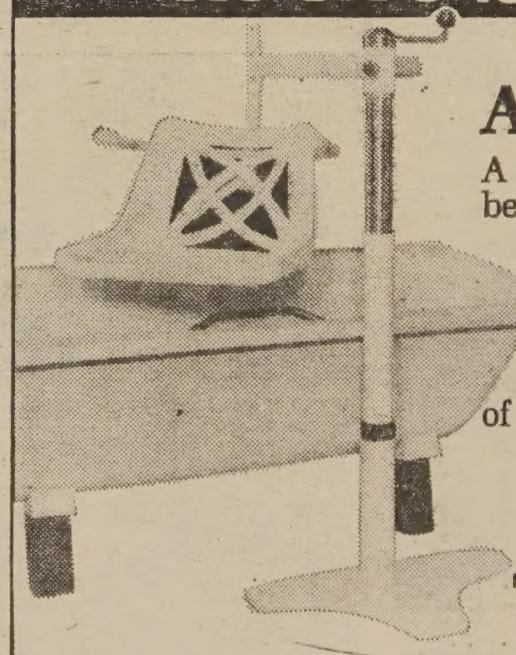
kinson, assistant administrator; Mrs Jasmine Wooler, Vice-Chairman of Retford and Worksop Spastics Society; Mrs Eileen Clarke, Miss Pauline Smith and Mrs Elaine Ramsden, members of staff on Springfield Ward. On the far right Mrs Gillian Whitby, appeals officer, The Spastics Society who organised the collection with the assistance of Mrs Williams, secretary of the Newark & District Spastics Society.

Lucky 13



TRADITIONALLY number 13 is nobody's lucky number, but it is lucky for some as Brighton mother and daughter Lorna Ward and Susan Sinclair found out when they bought tickets from The Spastics Society's thirteenth lottery. It was a spur of the moment decision at a one-day market. Mrs Ward paid for the tickets, and Mrs Sinclair opened one to discover that it was worth £1,000. They decided to go 50-50 with the prize, and both have decided to put the money towards new cars. Picture shows: Mrs Lorna Ward, left, and her daughter Mrs Susan Sinclair receive their £1,000 cheque from Councillor Dudley Baker at the Hamilton House Day Centre for Spastics in Hove.

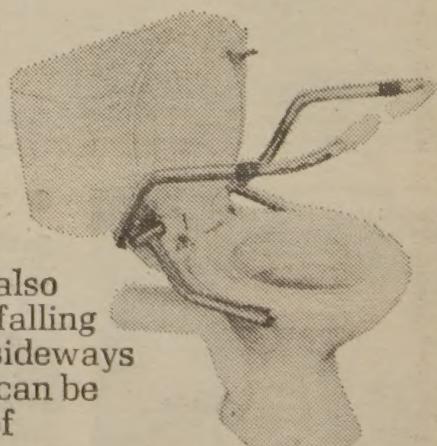
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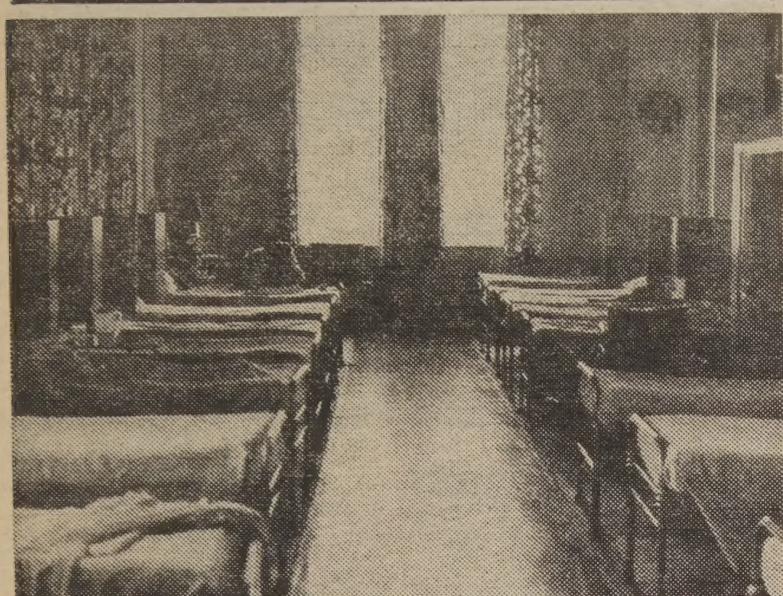
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It's goodbye to all this...

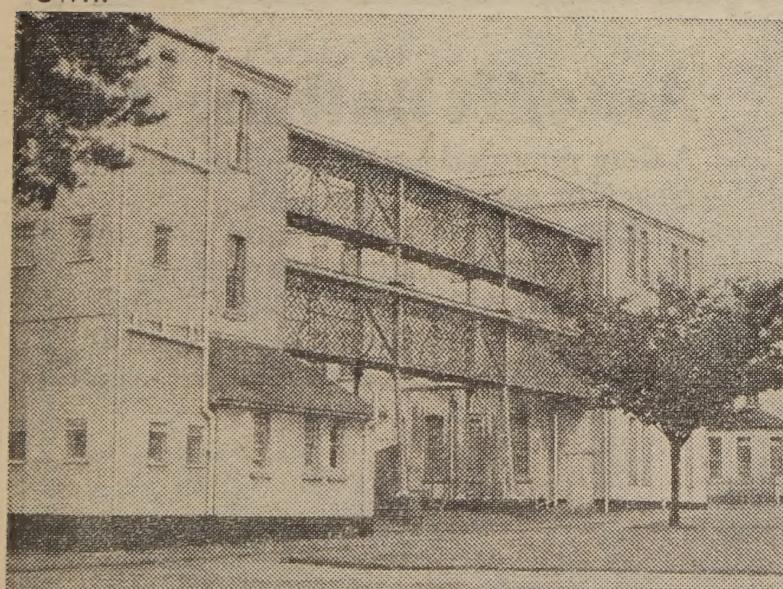


● GOODBYE to all this — soon the famous four will leave the ward to share two cosy bedrooms decorated to their own choice and sleep in beds made up with duvets they have chosen for themselves.

... now we are 'going home'



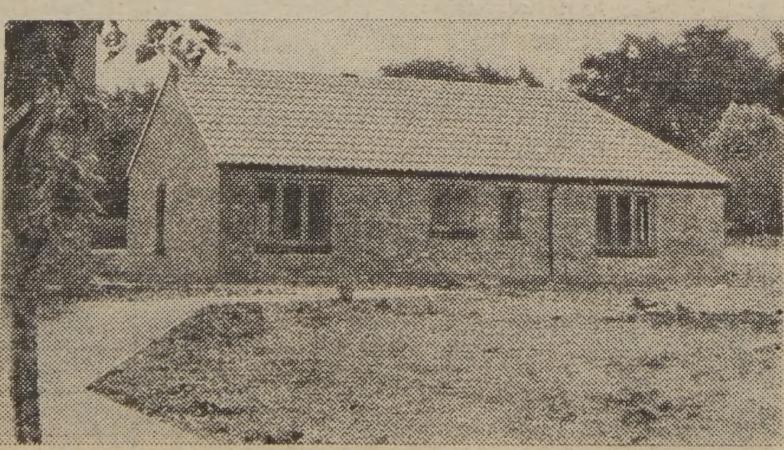
● JOEY Deacon and Ernie Roberts, with Michael Sangster and Tom Blackburn behind them, pose in front of a dream come true — a home of their own.



● ST Lawrence's Hospital houses 1,420 residents.



● DR Geoffrey Harris.



● HOME sweet home for the four friends who have shared a dormitory and institution living.

FORTY YEARS ON - A NEW LIFE FOR JOEY AND HIS FRIENDS

ON September 22, a Dutch TV team will ceremoniously end over 40 years of life in a sub-normality hospital for Joey Deacon, Ernie Roberts, Tom Blackburn and Michael Sangster, and hand them a key to their own front door and a new life.

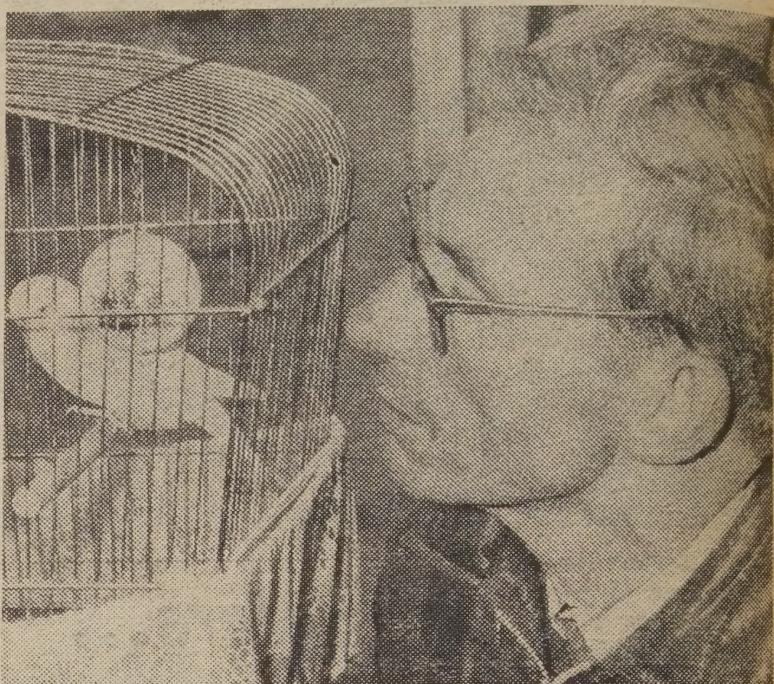
The British public took

Joey, a heavily handicapped spastic, and his friends to their hearts after Brian Gibson made his acclaimed TV film 'Joey' based on the book that Joey wrote called 'Tongued-tied.' The book was the idea of Les Atkins who had nursed Joey through TB at St Lawrence's Hospital in Caterham. Joey's grunts, unintelligible to all but Ernie, were interpreted by Ernie, written down by Michael and typed by Tom. After the book's publication and the programme's screening, money filtered in from well-wishers, and the idea of a home of their own for the four was born. But the fund never got to £2,000 — far too little to make a dream come true until 'Joey' was screened on Dutch TV.

Appeal

The response was staggering and the station decided to screen an appeal between Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve — the money literally poured in — an unbelievable £48,500 in just a week.

Dr Geoffrey Harris, St Lawrence's Medical Superintendent, could hardly believe it. Plans were drawn up for a bungalow village in the hospital grounds but now that money was no longer a problem, bureaucracy raised its head in the shape of the local council, who found fault with the siting. They suggested a new spot



● . . . and Pineapple comes too. The little budgie has been with the four friends for three years and to leave him behind in the ward would be unthinkable. Ernie (pictured) is a former winner of The Spastics Society's Achievement Award. Pictures by Ray Christopher.

which Dr Harris declared was a day's march from the hospital and too far in case of emergencies. Now the problems have been dealt with and three bungalows of the proposed 12 are ready for occupation. Joey and his friends will say goodbye to the men who have shared their life in Male Ward C1 for so many decades and start anew.

It is a big step after a life-time shared with 1,420 other residents in the hospital. The furnishings have been supplied but already the four have been to the shops and selected their

own choice of sheets and duvets. Although the main mid-day meal will be sent to them at first, they will be cooking for themselves.

They will get their own breakfasts and suppers, they can cook a Sunday joint and although supplied with provisions they will do a lot of their own shopping. Cleaning and all the other responsibilities will be theirs although a friendly eye will be kept on them in the beginning to make sure they can cope.

Visitors

'It is their own home,' Dr Harris stressed. 'I'm sure they will have lots of visitors popping in to see them. And if necessary help will be close at hand.'

He is very pleased with the project, which he believes is unique in the world and certainly in this country, a bungalow village in a sub-normality hospital.

For Joey, Ernie, Tom and Michael it is a unique chance to live a full and rewarding life in a home of their own.

Liz Cook



● FOR over 40 years this little corner of the conservatory of Male Ward C1 has been the

four's own private domain, where they have tea, watch TV and talk to the budgie.

THE official opening of Joey Deacon's bungalow is to be a Gala occasion with a marquee in the grounds to serve tea to the 100 well-wishers who are expected at the hospital on September 22. Joey along with Ernie Roberts, Tom Blackburn and Michael Sangster will have already moved in but three executives from the Dutch TV station who made Joey's dream come true are coming over to cut the tape at the ceremonial opening.

SPASTICS NEWS

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